

# STRIKE-OUTS: EVEN-LETTER DELETIONS

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Various kinds of wordplay can be devised using deletions: the APRICOT contains a PIT, household GARBAGE yields GARAGE sales. The May 1976 Word Ways featured Tom Pulliam's synonymic deletions: INDOLENT contains IDLE, to DECLINE is to DIE. This article features a special class of deletions -- those in which the even letters of a word are struck out, leaving another word:

F~~E~~A~~S~~T and grow F~~A~~T

Pharaoh's daughter found the B~~A~~B~~E~~ hidden in the B~~R~~A~~M~~B~~L~~E~~S~~

She may no longer wear a B~~R~~A, but it's still in her B~~U~~R~~E~~A~~U~~

Unlike onion and leek, the S~~H~~A~~L~~L~~O~~T contains its own S~~A~~L~~T~~

If you D~~A~~R~~E~~ to drink polluted water, you may get D~~I~~A~~R~~R~~H~~E~~A~~

The shocked father of T~~R~~I~~P~~L~~E~~T~~S~~ cries "T~~I~~L~~T~~!"

A barking dog seldom will B~~I~~T~~E~~, but avoid one that B~~R~~I~~S~~T~~L~~E~~S~~

If you inflate a rubber B~~O~~A~~T~~, it will become B~~U~~O~~Y~~A~~N~~T

If I were more F~~L~~U~~E~~N~~T~~, this would be more F~~U~~N

Although I strike out my E~~R~~R~~O~~R~~S~~, I still E~~R~~R

P~~R~~E~~S~~T~~O~~! The magician pulls a P~~E~~T from his hat

Few people find B~~E~~A~~U~~T~~Y~~ in a B~~A~~T

Girls I've Struck Out With

S~~A~~L~~I~~Y I find much too S~~L~~Y

A~~N~~N~~E~~T~~T~~E just raised the A~~N~~T~~E~~

C~~L~~A~~I~~R~~E~~ is wary in my C~~A~~R

D~~I~~A~~N~~N~~E~~ must serve her D~~A~~N tea

Y~~V~~E~~T~~T~~E~~? I hope to win her Y~~E~~T

A~~L~~Y~~C~~E won't say A~~Y~~E

A~~R~~L~~E~~E~~N~~ gets ill on beer or A~~L~~E

T~~E~~R~~R~~Y scorns my T~~R~~Y

P~~E~~A~~R~~L just wants to "be a P~~A~~L"

M~~A~~E no longer sees M~~E~~

B~~E~~N~~D~~A doesn't share my B~~E~~D

G~~L~~A~~D~~Y~~S~~? G~~A~~Y, deceives me

S~~W~~I~~S~~S miss treats me like a S~~I~~S

F~~L~~O likes another F~~E~~L~~L~~O~~W~~

When I'm here, Y~~V~~O~~N~~N~~E~~ is Y~~O~~N

... You wonder why I bellow?